

V. COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Water and Sewer Services

The Town of Hamilton provides public water and/or sewer service to properties within the Town, and to some properties in the Joint Land Management Area (JLMA) and within a special sewer tax district. The Town may also provide public utility service to County or Town owned and operated public facilities that are in the Rural Policy Area immediately adjacent to the JLMA. The Town's utility systems are the only public sewer and water facilities in the Hamilton area and thus are a limiting factor for future growth.

Water Service: The Town constructed a central water system in the late 1940s and has gradually expanded and upgraded it. The Town currently serves a total of 573 water customers, including twelve commercial or industrial users. Approximately 362 or 63% of these water customers are located outside and adjacent to the Town corporate limits. Nearly all of the residents in the Town are connected to the water system. The few that are not connected rely on individual wells.

Water Service Facilities: The Town's water system consists of nine wells, a 60,000-gallon elevated storage tank, a 500,000-gallon ground storage tank, and a distribution system. The system is permitted by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) to produce 172,000 gallons of water per day. At peak periods, the Town has pumped as much as 138,000 gallons per day but the average is around 123,350 gallons per day.

Emergency Capacity: The 500,000-gallon ground storage tank is available for emergency use and would provide enough supply for a four to five day period. The 500,000-gallon tank is located near the center of Town. However, prior to distribution, water is pumped up to a 60,000-gallon tall tower next to the tank. This provides more stable water pressures and reduces wear and tear on the pump at the base of the tower.

Based on the storage volume, the system should be capable of providing 3,000 gallons per minute (gpm) for three hours for an industrial or commercial fire. Alternatively, it should be capable of providing fire protection for 9,500 people or 2,700 dwellings. A fire truck with booster pumps may be necessary to provide adequate pressures. If such equipment is available, the current fire protection system should be adequate for the anticipated Town and area growth scenarios.

Water Distribution Lines: The water mains are generally in good condition. The pressures are generally good, although they tend to fall somewhat at the east end of Town. The decentralized system of wells does not require mains as large as a centralized system; however, growth on the fringes will require either drilling new wells or upgrading smaller mains.

Sewer Service Facilities: The Town of Hamilton constructed its central sewer system in the late 1960s. The Town of Hamilton lies at the high point along the drainage divide between the Catoctin and Goose Creek drainage basins. The sub-watersheds that comprise the natural drainage system in and around the Town generally follow in multiple directions away from the center of Town. Due to the location of the treatment plant at a relatively high elevation at the edge of the corporate limits, the only way in which sewer service can be provided to many areas

in and around the Town is to pump the sewage through force mains to gravity lines, which in turn flow to the plant.

Two pump stations are currently used to collect sewage from drainage sheds to the south and northeast of the Town. Because these drainage sheds are substantially built-out and the other drainage areas flow away from the Town in all directions, any further growth other than redevelopment of existing parcels will likely require additional pump stations or treatment plants.

In 1990 the system was upgraded and expanded from a capacity of 80,000 gallons per day to a permitted capacity of 160,000 gallons per day. Currently, the average daily flow is less than 80,000 gallon per day.

Several public utility studies have been commissioned to evaluate the Town's utility systems. In July 1996, a report was commissioned to study the existing conditions and capacity of the Towns sewer treatment plant. The report, *Hamilton Area Sewer Project—Impacts to the Existing Wastewater Treatment Plant—Preliminary Engineering Report*, provided the basis for improvements to the sewer plant and sewer lines. The upgrade was necessitated and initiated by the County to solve a health problem associated with failing septic systems in the County within close proximity to the Town. This expansion was financed by a loan from the state revolving fund and another loan from Loudoun County. A special tax district called the Hamilton Area Sewer Tax District (HASTD) was created to pay for connecting these properties to Hamilton's sewer system. Property owners in the HASTD pay additional taxes to defray the cost of loans. Up to 165 residences with failing systems will ultimately be served by the Hamilton sewer system through this County project.

In the years after the 1996 report was completed, some large parcels within the Hamilton JLMA were developed at lower densities than what was anticipated. Consequently the utility projections needed to be reassessed and an updated report was prepared in 1999 entitled *Water and Sewer Master Plan—Town of Hamilton—Urban Growth Area 1990-2050*.

In August of 2000, the Town amended the Hamilton Plan to reduce the JLMA area to its current size of 587 acres. The County followed suit and adopted a Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPAM 2000-0002) in September of 2000. In an effort to recognize the reduction in the JLMA and to recognize the policies within this Comprehensive Plan, the Town is considering updating the utility master plan.

At present, 382 customers are connected to the sewer system, of which one hundred eighty (180) are located outside the Town corporate limits. An additional one hundred and sixty (160) new users are committed to the HASTD. Additional capacity must be reserved for the undeveloped properties that are within the corporate limits and to service increased needs for schools and safety systems.

Sewer Service: In addition to the Town's public water and sewer systems, many of the residents living outside the Town but within the JLMA have individual, private wells and septic drainfields. Most of these continue to function properly, due in part to the generally good soils in the area. However, in some locations within the HASTD, failing septic systems have been identified and remedied.

Solid Waste

The Town provides curbside solid waste collection service to Town residents through a contract with a private hauling company. This service is financed through the Town's general tax revenues. Residents outside of the corporate limits contract independently with private companies or take their refuse directly to Loudoun County's solid waste facility located south of Leesburg.

The Town also has initiated the implementation of an effective recycling program. The Town's solid waste hauler provides curbside collection every week for yard waste, magazines, newspapers, glass, cans and plastics.

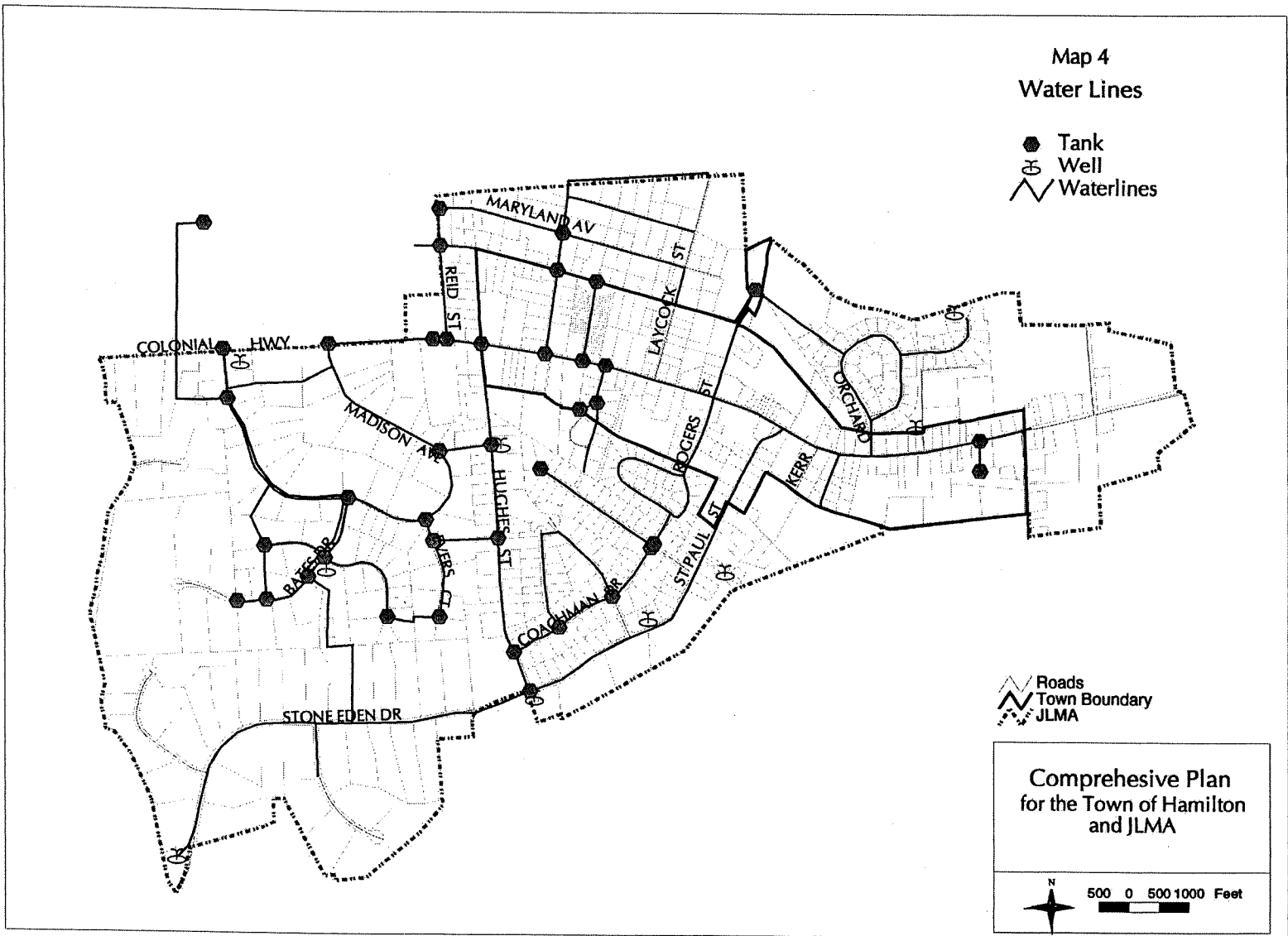
Stormwater Management

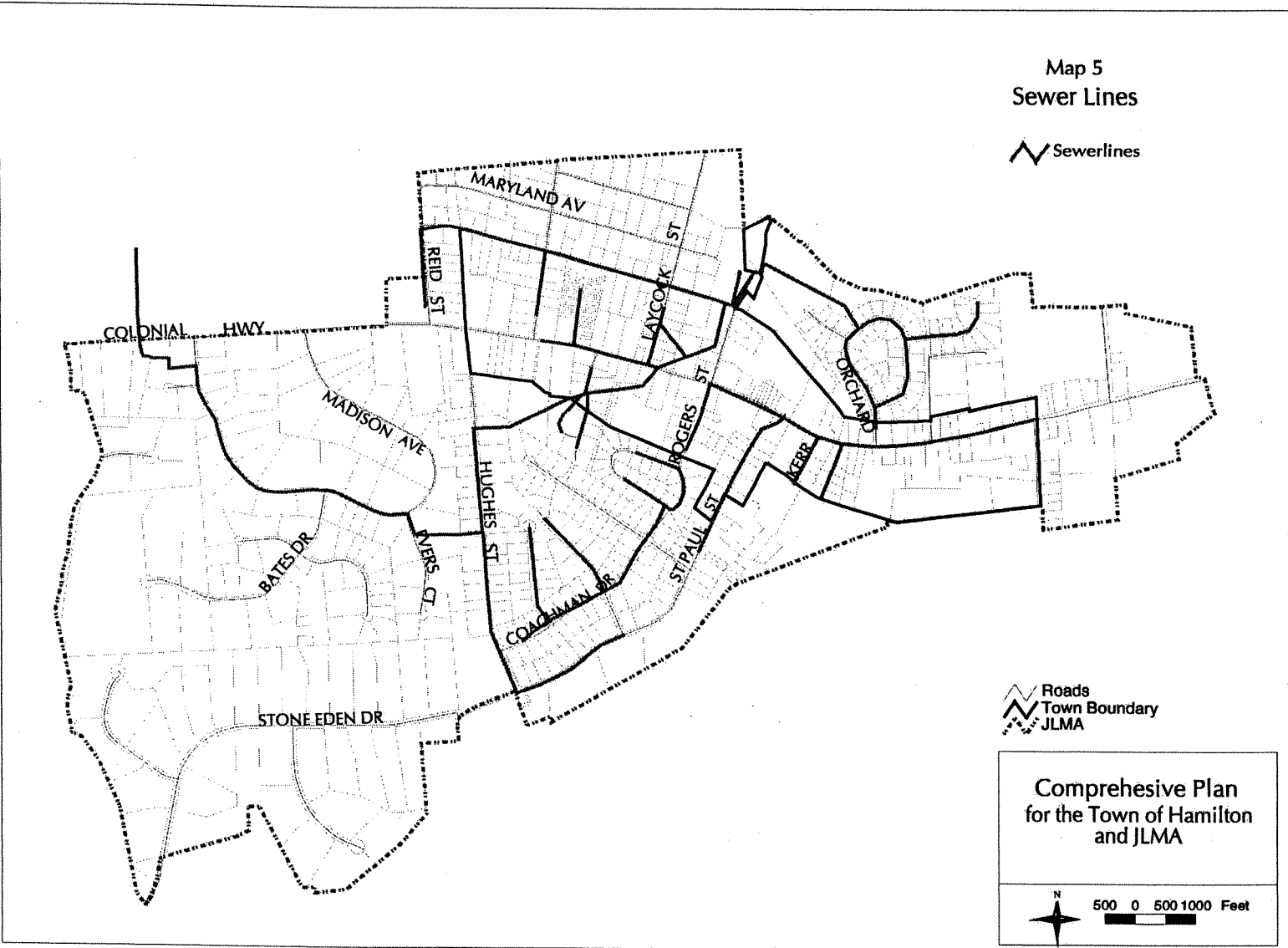
The older sections of the Town are currently drained of stormwater runoff by a series of ditch sections and culvert pipes adjacent to the roadways. The newer areas of development have been designed and constructed with curb and gutter section roadways and a series of storm sewer inlets and pipes for drainage.

Any construction or subdivision plans for the JLMA are reviewed by both the Town and the Loudoun County Department of Building and Development. Any development within the JLMA must comply with Loudoun County's standards for stormwater management as set forth in its Facilities Standards Manual (FSM). Development within the Town limits must be reviewed by the County and must comply with the provisions of the Virginia State Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook for stormwater management regulations.



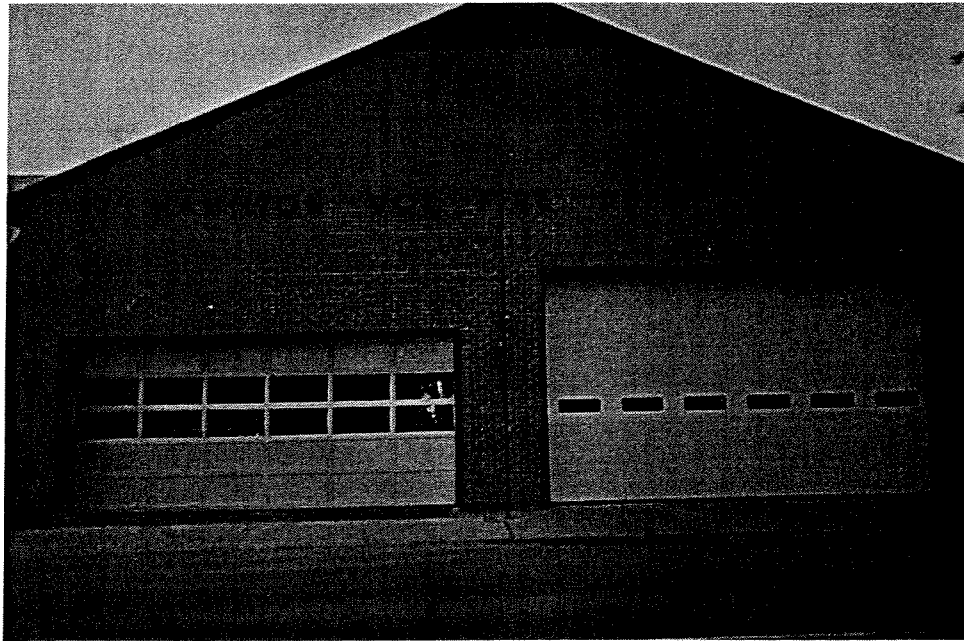
Pond at Winodee





Public Safety

Fire and Rescue: The Hamilton Volunteer Fire Company (Loudoun County Company 5) and the Hamilton Volunteer Rescue Squad provide safety and emergency services to the Town and surrounding area. The Fire Company operates from a station located near the center of Town with the Rescue Squad operating in a separate facility on a side street. Plans are underway to consolidate fire and rescue facilities under one roof on the east end of the JLMA. The fire department has two Class A pumpers, a brush truck and an air unit. The rescue squad operates one ambulance. Hamilton Volunteer Fire Department is one of fifteen volunteer fire companies in the County fire and rescue system and works cooperatively with the other companies and the Loudoun County Department of Fire and Rescue to provide services to the local area. The company's "first due" area includes Hamilton, Paeonian Springs, and Waterford.



Hamilton Volunteer Fire Department

Law Enforcement: The Loudoun County Sheriff's Department provides law enforcement services to the residents of the Town and surrounding area. The Town straddles the border of patrol sectors 2 and 3, within which the department maintains a deputy on duty at all times. The department also provides regular motorcycle patrols on the W&OD Trail and assigns an officer to attend Town Council meetings to share and receive information about local law enforcement issues. In addition, the Virginia State Police have jurisdiction throughout the County as in other parts of the state, focusing on traffic law enforcement.

Public Schools

The Loudoun County public school system has four facilities that serve residents of the Hamilton area.

Hamilton Elementary School is located contiguous to the Town of Hamilton with access from within the corporate limits. It has 300 students with an average class size of approximately twenty. The school has an estimated capacity of 330 students. This school is a cornerstone of most Town activities, with sports teams, civic groups, and citizen committees using it as an evening meeting place. The preservation, and even expansion, of this school is an important objective of this plan.

Blue Ridge Middle School located just south of Purcellville, and Loudoun Valley High School, located within Purcellville, provides middle and secondary public education facilities for Hamilton area residents.

To relieve pressure at Blue Ridge Middle School and Loudoun Valley High School, Harmony Intermediate School opened in the fall of 2002 for eighth and ninth grade students. When a second high school is built to serve the western part of the County, Harmony will serve as a second middle school. The school is located on business Route 7 adjacent to the Hamilton JLMA. Part of the school property lies within the Purcellville JLMA. It will have a projected maximum enrollment of 1150.

Parks and Recreation

The Town of Hamilton owns and operates a 4.7-acre park behind the post office which features play equipment and several open play fields. The County-owned elementary school has two softball fields, a tennis court, and a basketball court. The W&OD Regional Linear Park provides hiking and bicycling opportunities.

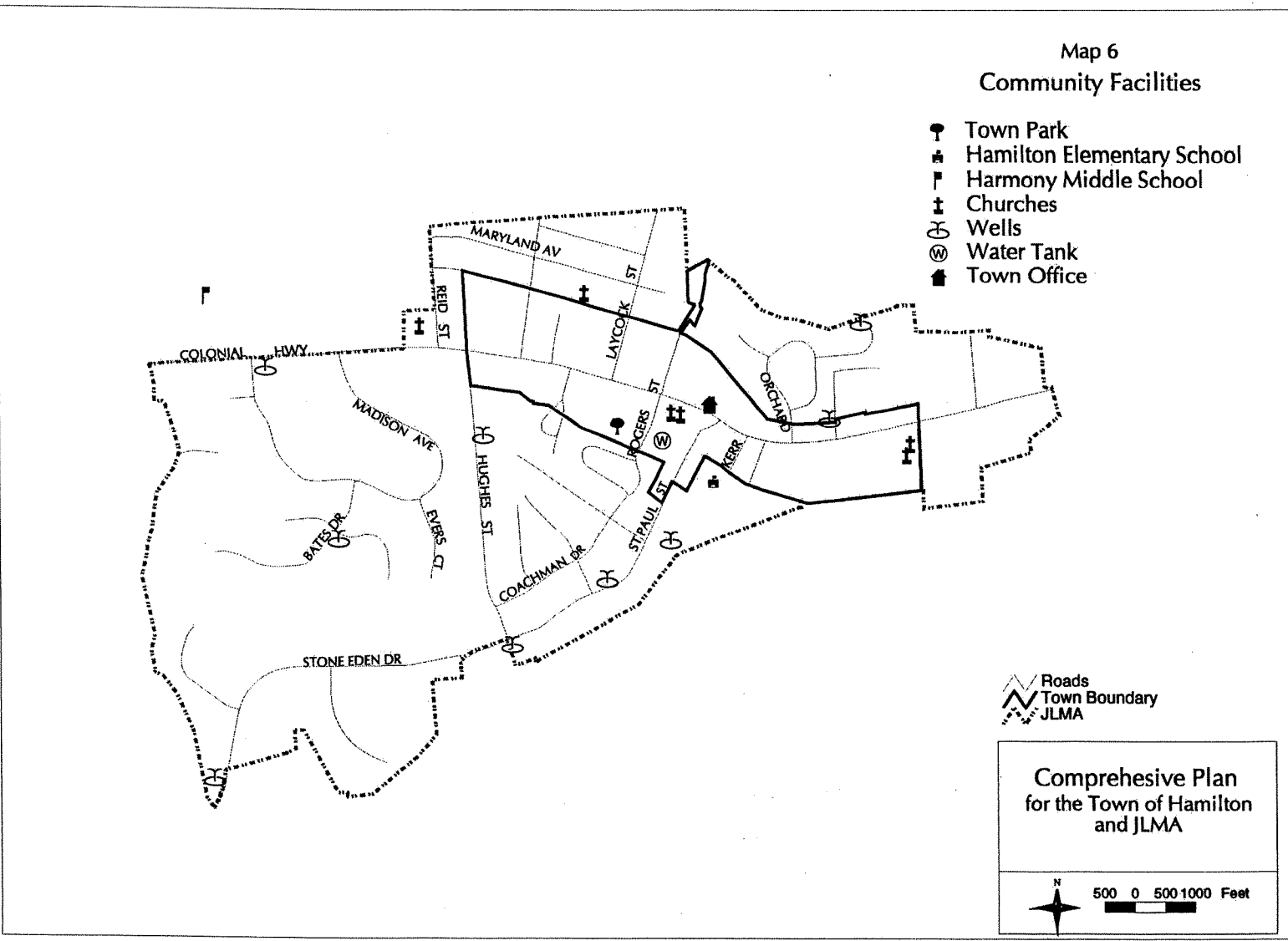
In addition to the park facilities within and adjacent to the Town, Loudoun County recently opened Franklin Park on approximately 200 acres of land between Purcellville and Round Hill. The regional, County-owned park facility serves all western Loudoun citizens.

Town Government

The Town of Hamilton is incorporated under charter from the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Town has a seven-member elected Council, including the Mayor who is also a voting member. Council members serve staggered, four-year terms. The Council is empowered to levy taxes, enact ordinances, and exercise other powers as conferred to Towns by the Code of Virginia.

The Town conducts business at the Town Hall, located in the center of the Town on Colonial Highway (Business Route 7). The Town Hall is a single room facility of approximately 1,000 square feet on the ground level which serves as the public meeting room for Town Council and other public meetings, as well as the office of the Mayor and Treasurer/Zoning Administrator.

The Town employs a full time Treasurer/Zoning Administrator, a part-time assistant to the Treasurer, a supervisor of the wastewater treatment plant, a supervisor of the water plants, and a maintenance supervisor.



GOALS – COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

1. Endeavor to provide quality community facilities and services that are conveniently located to serve Town and area residents, and businesses.
2. Provide for the equitable, effective distribution of public facilities and services to the Town and JLMA. Implement preventative maintenance and financial planning measures regarding existing and future infrastructure.
3. Support the continuation of Hamilton Elementary School at its present site and support a school system that reflects the Town's commitment to education.
4. Maintain and enhance the basic facilities, services, and institutions of the Town and JLMA, including the elementary school, fire and rescue station, Town Hall, and Town park.
5. Limit future public water and sewer service to within the Town, the JLMA, HASTD, and to publicly owned and operated facilities within the rural area and adjacent to the JLMA. Require Town water or sewer extensions to be at the new user's/developer's expense.
6. Assure community facilities are a size and scale that are compatible with the area in which they are located and are, to the extent feasible, aesthetically pleasing.



POLICIES – COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

1. The Town, which may work in conjunction with the Loudoun County Sanitation Authority (LCSA), will be the sole provider of central water and sewer service within the JLMA. The Town may provide water and sewer service to public facilities that are in the rural area but adjacent to the Town JLMA. The development will follow the Town's preferred pattern of growth as set forth in this plan, and be contingent on the Town's capability to support such extensions and the adequacy of the road system to support the new facility. The users will be required to fully fund those services, including any necessary capacity expansions and line extensions.
2. Minimize negative impacts of new development on the existing Town while providing for the efficient and economical coordination and provision of public facilities and services to moderately scaled and compatible development in the JLMA.
3. Continue Town effort to gain maximum efficiency of the sewer system.
4. Continue Town support of the Hamilton Volunteer Fire Company and the Hamilton Rescue Squad, and cooperate with the Loudoun County Sheriff's Department in seeking to establish a sheriff's substation within the Town.
5. Maintain and improve the Town park, and continue to consider future opportunities for acquiring additional park properties and pedestrian trails in the Town and in the JLMA.
6. Capital facility proffers for rezonings in the JLMA will be shared between the Town and the County according to which jurisdiction will be constructing/maintaining and/or funding capital facilities. At such time as the Town becomes responsible for a given service or facility, then the allocation shall be provided to the Town.
7. Cash contributions for park and recreational facilities and capital improvements will be divided as follows: 75% of the funds will go to the County to be used for the development of Franklin Park and 25% of the funds will go to the Town. At such time as Franklin Park is developed, cash contributions for park and recreational facility improvements will be divided evenly between the Town and the County. Land dedicated for public park facilities in the JLMA will be dedicated to the Town or its designee.

ACTION ITEMS – COMMUNITY AND FACILITY SERVICES

1. Conduct a new water and sewer study that reflects the policies in this Comprehensive Plan.
2. Continue Town effort to identify and resolve infiltration problems in the sewer lines in order to improve efficiency of the system.
3. Consider the adequacy of police, fire and rescue services when reviewing rezoning and special exception applications.

4. Expand and enhance the Town's long-range capital program by conducting an infrastructure needs analysis, code-compliance analysis and maintenance needs analysis, and establish funding plan for long term capital needs for all public facilities and utilities.
5. Consider the adequacy of Town water supply and sewage treatment facilities when reviewing rezoning and special exception applications. The County will coordinate with the Town to ensure all rezonings and developments in the JLMA do not negatively impact the Town and existing users in the surrounding areas.
6. Priority for allocation of sewer taps will be given to in-town development, public service facilities located in town or in the JLMA, and the HASTD.
7. The Town, the County, and appropriate landowners will work to achieve public ownership, through donation or purchase, of a portion of the residual land between the W&OD Trail and the Route 7 bypass for use as a park, possibly as a component of the W&OD Trail.
8. The Town will request the County to fund efforts to establish measurements of the ground water supply in the Hamilton-Purcellville-Round Hill area.
9. Upgrade Town-owned recreational facilities to meet the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and safety requirements.
10. Review Town ordinances to consider preferred locations and size requirements for commercial and public telecommunication towers, monopoles and high-tension electric towers.